Kambera language

Kambera, also known as **East Sumbanese**, is a Malayo-Polynesian language spoken in the Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia. Kambera is a member of Bima-Sumba subgrouping within Central Malayo-Polynesian inside Malayo-Polynesian.[3] The island of Sumba, located in the Eastern Indonesia, has an area of 12,297 km^2.[4] The name Kambera comes from a traditional region which is close to a town in Waingapu. Because of export trades which concentrated in Waingapu in the 19th century, the language of the Kambera region has become the bridging language in eastern Sumba.

Kambera	
East Sumbanese	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Lesser Sunda Islands
Native speakers	240,000 (2009)[1]
Language family	Austronesian
	▪ Malayo-Polynesian
	▪ Central–Eastern
	▪ Sumba–Flores ?
	▪ Sumba–Hawu
	▪ Sumba
	▪ East Sumbanese
	▪ **Kambera**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xbr
Glottolog	kamb1299 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kamb1299)[2]

Contents

Phonology

Vowels

	Front	Back
High	i iː	u uː
Mid	e ai	o au
Low	a, aː	

The diphthongs /ai/ and /au/ function phonologically as the long counterparts to /e/ and /o/, respectively.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	p	t		k	
Implosive	ɓ	ɗ			
Voiced affricate			dʒ		
Nasal	m	n		ŋ	
Prenasalized stop	^{m}b	^{n}d		^{ŋ}g	
Prenasalized affricate			^{ɲ}dʒ		
Fricative					h
Lateral		l			
Rhotic		r			
Semivowel	w		j		
Prenasalized semivowel			^{ɲ}j		

Kambera formerly had /s/, but a sound change occurring around the turn of the 20th century replaced all occurrences of former /s/ with /h/.

Morpho-syntax

Negation

Negators are used in Kambera, and other languages, to make a clause or sentence negative in meaning. Kambera has several types of negators. There are six main types of negators listed below.

Negators	English translation
nda	negation
ndia	emphatic negation
ndedi	'not yet'
àmbu	'won't, don't' (irrealis negation)
àmbu...ndoku	'won't/don't...at all'
nda...ndoku	'not...at all'

Ndia 'no' is used for general negation, and *nda* 'negative' or *ndedi* 'not yet' are predicate negators. *Ndoku* is used to emphasise the negation by being placed with the negator *àmbu* or *nda*.[5] Example:

(1)[6] *Ambu bobar ndoku   -ma -ya!*
     NEG.irr preach NEG.emp -EMP -3sA
     "Do not talk about it at all!"

Àmbu is used to express future negation, as well as negation in imperatives.[5]

(1)[5] *Àmbu   katuda=kau nàhu!*

NEG.IRR sleep=2s.ACC now
"Don't go to sleep now!"

Negators are elements in a clause that are deictic. They can be used to refer to time, space and discourse.[7] Shown below, the negator, *ndia* is used to refer to discourse.

(1)[8] *Ndia   ná!*
    NEG   DEI
    "No!" (not like that)

Two of these negators nda and àmbu – with *nda* being a general negator, are used for nominal and verbal predicates.

(1)[9] *Nda ningu ndoku*
    NEG be   NEG.emp
    "There are none at all."

Negators into verbs

The word *pa* in Kambera is derivational and can be added to few prepositional nouns, numerals and negators to create verbs. The emphatic negator *ndia* 'no' can become a verb through *pa* derivation. The translation of this verb then becomes "to deny".[10]

Example below of how *ndia* is constructed into a verb in a given phrase:

(1)[11] *na- pa.ndia -ya ba   nda na- njala*
      3sN- pa.no   -3sA CNJ NEG 3sN be/do wrong
      "He denied that he did wrong."

Noun phrases

A nuclear clause has the predicate as the head in Kambera, and modifiers are positioned at the beginning of the clause. As *nda* is a modifier it is placed at the beginning of a clause, as a clause-initial negator, before the verb and the rest of the elements of a nuclear clause.[12]

You can distinguish nominal clauses from NPs is through the irrealis negator *àmbu* and the negator *nda*, which both never occur inside a possessed NP.[13]

Clitics

The Kambera word *nda* is also considered to be a pro-clitic as well, as they do not conform to the minimal word requirement and must occur with a syntactic/phonological host.[14] A clitic is a type of bound morpheme which is syntactically free, but are phonologically bound morphemes. They can attach themselves to a stem, for example the negator *nda*. *Nda* appears before its host and is used to mark negation. It has a very simple phonotactic properties and cannot carry stress. [15]*Nda* as a clitic can only ever occur with a host.

Example:

(1)[16] *Ka 'nggiki hi   nda =u- 'ita -ka?*
     CNJ why   CNJ NEG 2pN- see -1sA
     "Why didn't you see me?"

In the example above, the negator *nda* becomes *nda u-* [ndaw], with *nda* attaching itself to the allomorph *u-*.[17] *Nda* is a proclitic that marks an embedded clause in Kambera.

Relative clauses

Negators are also included in relative clauses, but are not a part of the noun phrase.

Example:

(1)[18] *[Nda [ndui pa-   bohu]_{NP}] -ya*
     NEG money RmO- steal   -3sA
     "It (is) not stolen money."

Pronouns and person markers

Personal pronouns are used in Kambera for emphasis/disambiguation and the syntactic relation between full pronouns and clitics is similar to that between NPs and clitics. NPs and pronouns have morphological case.

Personal Pronouns

Person	Number	
	Singular	*Plural*
1INC		nyuta
1EXCL	nyungga	nyuma
2	nyumu	nyimi
3	nyuna	nyuda

Kambera, as a head-marking language, has rich morpho-syntactic marking on its predicators. The pronominal, aspectual and/or mood clitics together with the predicate constitute the nuclear clause. Definite verbal arguments are crossreferenced on the predicate for person, number and case (Nominative (N), Gentive (G), Dative (D), Accusative (A)). The four main pronominal clitic paradigms are given below.

	Nominative	Genitive	Accusative	Dative
1SG	ku-	-nggu	-ka	-ngga
2SG	(m)u-	-mu	-kau	-nggau
3SG	na-	-na	-ya	-nya
1PL.INC	ta-	-nda	ta-	-nda
1PL.EXC	ma-	-ma	-kama	-nggama
2PL	(m)i-	-mi	-ka(m)i	-ngga(m)i
3PL	da-	-da	-ha	-nja

Examples:

(1) *apu-nggu*
   granny-1SG.GEN
   "My granny."

(2) *ana-na*
   child-3SG.GEN
   "His child."

(3) *Kau   pa.ta.lunggur-ya   na   wihi-na*
   scratch   CAU.be sore   ART   leg-3SG.GEN
   "He scratched his leg sore." (lit. "He scratched and caused his leg to be sore")

(4) *Na-tari-bia   nahu angu-na*
   3SG.NOM-watch-MOD now   companion-3SG.GEN
   "He just watches his companion."

(5) *Ningu   uma-nggua*
   be.here   house-3SG.GEN
   "I have a house." (lit. "Here is a house of mine.")

(6) *Nyuda-ha-ka   nahu da   ana-nda*
   they-3PL.ACC-PRF now   ART child-1PL.GEN
   "They are our children now."

The items in the table below mark person and number of the subject when the clause has continuative aspect.

Person	Number	
	Singular	*Plural*
1INC		-ndanya
1EXCL	-nggunya	-manya
2	-munya	-minya
3	-nanya	-danya

Examples:

> (1) *Lunggur-nanya   na   Ihi-na*
> scratch-3SG.CONT ART body-3SG.GEN
> "He is scratching his body."

> (2) *"Laku-nnguya   ina",   wa-na*
> go-1SG.CONT   mother   say-3SG
> "'I am going, mother," he said.'"

Possession

Kambera has a possessive or reflexive noun *wiki* 'self/own', which can be used to mark possession (1).

> (1) *Uma   wiki   -nggu*
> house self/own -1sG
> 'My own house'

Wiki has the structural properties of a noun and can be used as a nominal modifier (compare 2 & 3), unlike pronouns which must be cross-referenced on the noun with a genitive clitic (3).[19]

> (2) *Uma   witu   -nggu*
> house grass -1sG
> 'My hut'

> (3) *Uma   -nggu nyungga*
> house -1sG   I
> 'My house'

As (3) is a possessed noun phrase, the enclitic attaches to the noun. In possessed and modified noun phrases, the genitive enclitic attaches to the noun modifier (4).[20]

> (4) *Na   uma   'bakul -nggu*
> ART house be big -1sG
> 'My big house'

In Kambera, where cross-referencing is used, the noun phrase is optional. A verb along with its pronominal markers constitutes a complete sentence. Pronominal clitics are a morphological way of expressing relationships between syntactic constituents such as a noun and its possessor.[21]

Possessor relativisation

Possessors can be relativised with a *ma-* relative clause.[22] There are three types of clauses used in the relativisation of possessors.

The first is when the embedded verb is derived from a relational noun such as mother or child. These derived transitive verbs express relations between the subject and the object (5).

(5) *Na   anakeda   [na   ma-   ina   -nya]*
    ART   child   [ART   RmS-   mother   -3sD]
    'the child whose mother she is'/'the child she is the mother of'

The second clause type is where the possessor is the head of the ma- relative clause and the possessee is the subject of the embedded verb (6).

(6) *Ita -nggu -nya [na   tau   na   ma-meti kuru uma -na]*
    See -1sG -3sD [ART person ART RmS-die wife   -3sG]
    'I saw [the man whose wife died]

The final type is where the relative clause contains the verb *ningu* 'be' and the incorporated argument of this verb. The head of the relative construction is the possessor (7).

(7) *Na   tau   na   ma-   ningu   ihi   woka   .ng*
    ART   person   ART   RmS-   be   content   garden   .ng
    'the person that has crops' (lit.: 'the person whose garden content is')

*N.B: the morpheme *.ng* marks the edge of incorporation

Normally, the possessor pronoun *nyuna* 'he/she' follows the possessed noun (8), though it can also be the head of a relativised clause (9).

(8) *Na   marihak [na   kalembi -na   nyuna]*
    ART be dirty [ART shirt   -3sG he]
    'His shirt is dirty'

(9) *Nyuna na   [ma- marihak na   kalembi -na*
    He   ART RmS- be dirty ART shirt   -3sG
    'He whose shirt is dirty'

Possessors can also be relativised in the same way as subjects. For example, in the following headless relative clause (no possessor NP is present), a definite article is present (10).

(10) Na   ma-   rabih   karaha   kalai   -na
     ART   RmS-   trickle   side   left   -3sG
     'The (one) whose left side trickles (i.e. lets water through)'

     (mythological character that is the source of rain)

Abbreviations

Gloss	Meaning
NEG.irr	irrealis negator
NEG.emp	emphatic negator
EMP	emphasis marker
2s	2nd person singular
ACC	accusative
DEI	deictic element (space/time)
3sN	3rd person singular nominative
3sA	3rd person accusative singular emphatic pronoun
CNJ	conjunction
2pN	2nd person singular pronoun
1sA	1st person accusative singular emphatic pronoun
RmO	object relative clause marker

Footnotes

1. Kambera (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/xbr/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kambera" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kamb1299). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Klamer 1998
4. Klamer 1998
5. Klamer 2005, p. 723
6. Klamer 1998, p. 143
7. Klamer 1998, p. 142
8. Klamer 1998, p. 142
9. Klamer 1998, p. 143
10. Klamer 1998, p. 184
11. Klamer 1998, p. 185
12. Klamer 1998, p. 77
13. Klamer 1998, p. 99
14. Klamer 1998, p. 27
15. Klamer 1998, p. 47
16. Klamer 1998, p. 50
17. Klamer 1998, p. 50
18. Klamer 1998, p. 336
19. Klamer 1998, p. 130–131
20. Klamer 1998, p. 48
21. Klamer 1998, p. 60–61
22. Klamer 1998, p. 320–321

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